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THE ATTACHE BRANCH OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF

by

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The Author

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Date of Birth: 31 July 1898
Place of Birth: Hannover

After training and education in the cadet schools at Potsdam and Berlin from 1911-14, VON MELLENTHIN was assigned as a second lieutenant to the 6th Russian Artillery Regiment, with which he served on the West Front until the end of World War I.

At the end of that war he remained in Germany's reduced army and after undergoing the usual training, was promoted captain and granted General Staff Corps status in 1931. When World War II broke out, VON MELLENTHIN had attained the rank of lieutenant colonel and was serving an assignment as Chief of the Attache Section in the Army High Command, to which post he had been appointed in 1937. While serving this assignment he was promoted colonel.

In May 1943 VON MELLENTHIN was given command of an infantry regiment on the East Front and promoted General-major. From then on he remained on the East Front, where he commanded an infantry division until the autumn 1944 and after that an infantry corps. He was promoted General-leutnant in July 1944 and General der Artillerie in March 1945.

The general was taken prisoner by US forces at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, on 8 November 1945.

THE ATTACHE BRANCH (FORMERLY ATTACHE SECTION)* OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL MISSION

The Attache Branch received and compiled the reports of the German military attaches in foreign countries and passed the core of the information on to its superior agencies, the Assistant Chief of Staff IV (Intelligence), Chief of the General Staff, Commander in Chief of the Army, and the Wehrmacht High Command. It handled the activities and the briefing given the German military attaches and was the only liaison agency of the Army High Command to the foreign military attaches accredited at Berlin. The Branch prepared for the mutual exchange of military attaches with foreign armies, subject to approval by the superior agencies, including the invitation of foreign military attaches and foreign delegations to German maneuvers and guidance of them while there. The Attache Branch further fostered relations with foreign armies and supervised relations with foreigners and the foreign leaves of German soldiers. Together with the protocol department of the Foreign Office and with the Army Personnel Office the Branch handled the ceremonial affairs of the Army as far as foreigners were concerned, including the exchange of decorations. The Attache Branch was in charge of the budget

* Became Attache Branch in April 1940

for army and navy attaches and for invitations extended to foreigners by the German Army. In time of war these tasks were enlarged by information given to the German and foreign military attaches on the war situation and the cooperation with German and confederate liaison staffs. Beside a limited exchange of attaches with confederate and partly with neutral armies, front line visits of foreign military attaches and delegations took the place of participation in maneuvers. The liberty of movement of foreign officers in Germany was regulated by the Attache Branch. In cooperation with the Public Relations Branch of the Wehrmacht High Command, important publications of the German and Foreign press, as well as reports of war correspondents, and war and training films were procured and placed at the disposal of Germany's allies and in part also of the neutral military attaches.

CHAPTER 2

SECTIONS OF THE ATTACHE BRANCH IN PEACETIME

I. ORGANIZATION AND COMPOSITION*

The Attache Branch was composed of a chief and seven sub-sections five of which handled the activities and reports of a number of German military attaches and maintained contact with the corresponding foreign military attaches. Their composition corresponded to that of the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches. Another subsection was concerned with general affairs and compiled final surveys. The last subsection was charged

* See Appendix A

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with administrative and financial functions. A courier station assembled the mail going abroad and received from the Foreign Office the incoming courier mail. The Attache Branch was composed of former reserve officers, most of whom had served exemplarily in the field forces, on special assignments, or had been trained as assistant chiefs of staff. Knowledge of foreign languages, special experiences gained abroad, and skill in dealing with foreigners and with all kind of German agencies were required. Moreover many officials and a large number of employees, some with knowledge of foreign languages, were attached to the Branch.

II. OPERATIONAL METHODS

1. The German Military Attaches

The Attache Branch was the home agency of the German military attaches when representing the German Army High Command with the German diplomatic missions and with foreign armies. The Branch handled all their affairs and was responsible for the compilation and distribution of their reports.

The assignment of German military attaches to foreign countries, already long since planned, was approved in the autumn 1932 and ordered in December 1932. The first three military attaches entered upon their duties in March 1933 at Paris, London, and Washington, and at the same time Madrid, Lisbon, Brussels, the Hague, and Mexico City were notified that attaches would be assigned. Later military attaches for Rome, Prague, Vienna, and Warsaw were appointed with co-assignments to Budapest, Bucharest

Sofia, and Berne. Subsequently military attaches were appointed to Moscow, Budapest, Helsinki, and for all the Scandinavian states, Tokyo, Budapest, Ankara and in 1937-38 Salamanca (later Madrid), Brussels, Bucharest, Sofia, Berne, Stockholm received their own military attaches, as well as Copenhagen and Oslo. In mid 1938 a military attache was accredited to Rio de Janeiro and at the beginning of 1939 an attache was sent to Athens.

Before the war the Army High Command had assigned twenty officers ranking from Oberstleutnant to Generalleutnant as military attaches to thirty different foreign high commands or general staffs. Attaches were immediately subordinate to the Chief of the General Staff and, while abroad, to the chief of the German mission (embassy or legation). Service regulations issued by Reichspraesident von Hindenburg set forth their tasks and position within the mission as subordinate to the foreign office. An order of the Reich Minister of War contained supplementary instructions of a military nature concerning the cooperation of the generally independent military, navy, and air attaches. Consequently in countries where there were military attaches of the different branches of arms, and this was often the case, there was no military head. A later experiment of the Army High Command to create a Wehrmacht Attache was a failure because of the selection of unsuitable persons.

The main task of the military attache was to gain and maintain good connections with the army of a foreign country and its military agencies. Activities along intelligence lines were strictly forbidden them. The desired information on the country to which the attache was assigned was

to be derived from experience, from studying the press and literature, or from questioning competent authorities. The military attaches were charged with making applications for visits to troop units or army institutions in accordance with the political relations. They participated to a great extent in the ceremonies of bestowing decorations. The military attaches were financially placed in a position to represent socially in an appropriate manner the German Wehrmacht at the diplomatic corps functions and in the military and civil circles of the respective countries and especially at their own residences.

Reports were transmitted by wire or written reports were sent once or twice a week by the couriers of the Foreign Office. Before transmission the reports were submitted to the chief of the mission, who initialed them, or, perhaps, added a remark expressing a different opinion. To stop or change the reports without the consent of the military attache was not allowed. All service letters or reports were addressed to the Attache Branch as the only agency of the Army High Command entitled to receive them. In close cooperation with the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches, all parts of the reports deemed important to the general staff were passed on to them for further handling or further distributed by the Attache Branch.

The Attache Branch was charged with submitting important parts of the reports or telegrams, without delay and before working on them, to the Commander in Chief of the Army, the Chief of the General Staff and the Assistant Chief of Staff IV. This was mostly done in the form of

extracts or verbal reports based on short notes taken down at the time. Often the original report was added. Those parts of interest to the Army High Command were also handed to the Foreign Branch of the Wehrmacht High Command. Other portions were brought to the knowledge of the respective offices or branches of the Army High Command or other interested agencies or were worked on by the Attache Branch. Each report, opinion or question of the military attache was answered in principle in such a way that the military attache learned how his elaboration had been interpreted, which questions were still open to clarification and which suggestions were being made in that respect, so that on receipt of this reply he knew in which direction he should proceed with his work. Semiannual reports of the military attache were supposed to give a general view on developments in the respective country taking into account the individual reports sent by him in the meantime.

The tasks of the military attache and the matters on which he had to report were stipulated in the service regulations. The Intelligence Branches chiefly requested information concerning reports and judgments on the army of each country, as, for instance, its strength, armaments and equipment, or confirmation of statements in military literature, special publications or newspapers of the foreign country, which had come to the knowledge of the Intelligence Branches or other agencies of the Army High Command. Other requests were submitted by the Training and Operations Branch, the Arms Inspectorates, the Personnel Office, the Ordnance Office and others. To carry out these requests the military

attaches were instructed to get into contact with special people on the general staff of the respective country, to ask questions, to apply for permission to visit the troops, or to make courtesy calls on high military personages by order of the Commander in Chief of the Army or the Chief of the General Staff.

The requests, questions, and suggestions from all agencies were directed to the Attache Branch or originated from the Attache Branch itself. The different questions were coordinated by the Attache Branch and, if opportune, forwarded also to other military attaches in the same area. Generally the method of execution of such orders was left to the judgment of the military attaches, within the limits of the service regulations. From time to time, however, the Attache Branch made suggestions to the military attache that he determine, for instance, whether verbal or written inquiries to the general staff of the respective country might be opportune or not in view of the attitude of the foreign military attaches at Berlin in similar cases. It had also to be taken into consideration whether at that juncture the German General Staff would be prepared to answer a similary posed question.

All requests and suggestions of the German military attaches were treated by the Attache Branch with special care and in a warm light. The military attaches left to their own initiative in a foreign country and stationed at German missions, which often showed little understanding for military ideas, were in strong need of a home agency in which they could expect to find consideration, understanding and support. Thus confidence

was gained and possible differences in age and length of service between the military attaches and the leader of the attache section were bridged over, laying the foundation for many years of smooth cooperation. Such suggestions could, for instance, concern events, which had not yet so far developed as to require regular reports, but the knowledge of which might already be of importance to the higher military agencies. It might concern the cooperation with the corresponding foreign military attaches at Berlin, interchange of attaches, the military attaches' own training desires and special travel requests. The section also concerned itself with questions of the attache office, cooperation by the mission, personal affairs and those of his family, billeting or financial questions. Even, if such questions did not concern the service at all, they were handled with the same care.

The orientation of the German military attaches was an important task of the Attache Branch. Since the attaches were regularly informed through essential reports and experiences of military attaches in other countries on the organization, the state of training and armaments of the German Army, and on special maneuvers, tests and experiences, the military attaches were given a hint of what to have in view when judging the military force of the foreign country. These reports included instructions for the military attaches as to which part was meant for their own orientation and which part of the information could be passed on to the general staff of the foreign country either voluntarily or if asked. It was of great importance to keep the military attaches informed on the activities

of the corresponding foreign military attaches at Berlin, on their attitudes, and on their questions. German Attaches always received copies of the written answers given by the Attache Branch to questions of the foreign military attaches.

The guidance as well as the orientation of the German military attaches was handled by the Attache Branch based on suggestions made by the attaches themselves in cooperation with other agencies of the High Command and on approval of the Assistant Chief of Staff IV and the Chief of the General Staff. Plans for assignments to troop duty, participation in maneuvers or attendance at military schools were prepared and carried out in due time. In this way the military attaches could be posted on military developments, so that when relieved they could be employed again as troop commanders without delay.

From one to three times annually, according to their distance from Berlin, the military attaches came home to make personal reports. The Attache Branch worked out a time schedule for these visits, based on inquiries and wishes, the particulars of which were stipulated by the respective technical officers reporting on those countries. Reports and discussions with the Commander in Chief of the Army, Chief of the General Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff IV, Chief of the Attache Branch, and, if necessary, at the Wehrmacht High Command and the Foreign Office were provided, as well as discussions with the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches and other agencies of the Army High Command. Such activities generally resulted in important knowledge being gained by the military

attaches for their further activity.

Once a year all German military attaches assembled by order of the Chief of the General Staff at Berlin for a discussion, prepared and supervised by the Attache Branch, lasting from eight to ten days. The military attaches were asked in advance the points they wanted to discuss and by which agencies and on which questions they wanted to be informed. Besides, all agencies interested in the attache service were asked to state the information they desired to get from the attaches and the news they had to report themselves. A program for these attache discussions was usually as follows:

(1) Individual reports and discussions with superiors and the agencies of the Army High Command and the Foreign Office.

(2) Meeting of the military attaches in a group with a leader from the Attache Branch, at times with the Assistant Chief of Staff IV, during which each military attache made a ten to fifteen minutes report on important problems in the respective foreign country, followed by a discussion.

(3) Lectures on important subjects, for instance, on general military evaluations, important information on foreign armies, organization, state of training, state of armaments, officers and replacements, administration of the German Army and the Wehrmacht.

(4) Troop demonstrations and demonstrations of new weapons outside Berlin.

The military attaches were also received in a group by the Commander

in Chief of the Wehrmacht and by the Chief of the General Staff. At least once, they had a social meeting with the foreign military attaches stationed at Berlin.

2. The Foreign Military Attache at Berlin

The foreign military, naval, and air attaches with their assistants were incorporated in the diplomatic corps at Berlin and stationed at the foreign missions as representatives of their armed forces. The military attaches were the most important and worked through the Attache Branch of the German General Staff. The others were taken care of by the attache branches of the Navy and Luftwaffe. Attaches enjoyed the same diplomatic protection and the same freedom of movement as the other foreign diplomatic representatives. They did not, however, deal directly with the German Foreign Office, but with the section of the Attache Branch that dealt with their services. The mutually chivalrous attitude prevailing at that time among officers, beyond the frame of international diplomatic relations, resulted in a specially favored position for the foreign attaches at Berlin. For instance, the German High Command did not issue a special note of consent before a foreign military attache was appointed, which means that it was not necessary to ask beforehand whether the person in question would be acceptable for the post of military attache. On the contrary it was taken for granted that the person chosen by the chief of staff or the commander in chief of another army, being an officer, would continue the work of his predecessor irreproachably in every respect, based on the mutual comradeship and respect existing between armies.

The Attache Branch of the General Staff was the only agency of the High Command and of the Army to which foreign military attaches could apply and which was intitled to give any information. Newly appointed military attaches reported to the Chief of the Attache Branch and were presented by him to the Assistant Chief of Staff IV, the Chief of the General Staff and the Commander in Chief of the Army. One of the last two mentioned invited him together with his predecessor to an official dinner, which the chief of their mission also attended.

The foreign attaches addressed their verbal or written inquiries to the Attache Branch and received information within the scope of the records available in oral conversations sometimes with the technical staff officer concerned, but mostly with the head of the Attache Branch or they received a written answer.

In exceptional cases foreign military attaches were given information orally by other agencies of the Army High Command, or they were given information by the Assistant Chief of Staff IV or the Chief of the General Staff, seldom by the Commander in Chief, but in any case they were accompanied by the Chief of the Attache Branch or his representative.

The foreign military attaches addressed their personal questions as well as the questions posed by their general staffs to the Attache Branch. All personal affairs of the attaches were handled by the technical staff officers of the Attache Branch in just the same way as matters concerning German military attaches. The chief aim was to grant the foreign military attaches every possible assistance in such matters.

Professional questions were answered by handing over copies of regulations and giving information on equipment, organization, training and occasionally on experiences gained by German military agencies. Several foreign military attaches were interested in regular purchases of armaments. Representatives of armies with whom close connections existed used to put those questions often and in detail; others were more reticent.

Data to use in answering these questions were applied for at competent agencies at the Army or Wehrmacht High Commands. The limit to information which could be given to foreigners by the Attache Branch was redetermined from time to time and after submission to the highest authorities was specified and approved by them. The extent generally depended on the state of mutual relations. In special cases a decision by the Chief of the General Staff, the Commander in Chief of the Army, or the Reich Minister of War was asked for. A large part of the answers was given in writing by the Chief of the Attache Branch, whereas the so-called conversations created the frame for later official inquiries by the foreign military attache.

The superior agencies and the corresponding German military attaches were informed in writing about all important conversations and discussions with the foreign military attaches. The German military attaches further received copies of all inquiries and the answers given to them in order to act accordingly in their respective countries.

According to the state of mutual relations, some foreign military attaches were allowed a short visit to the troops or to a service school, or they were attached to the troops for a longer period. The Attache Branch

together with the training branch selected the troop unit and asked for the approval of the Commander in Chief of the Army. The Attache Branch then sent special instructions to the unit concerned regarding the personality of the military attache, indicating what was to be shown to him and what attitude to take with regard to comradery. In case of short visits an officer was assigned by the Attache Branch to accompany him.

From time to time certain army institutions, service schools, or athletic contests were shown to all foreign military attaches. Once a year they were invited by the Commander in Chief of the Army to take part in larger maneuvers of three or four days length, after the Attache Branch had previously determined which maneuvers were the most suitable with regard to what was being shown and the locality in which they took place. The participation was supervised by the Attache Branch in the presence of the Assistant Chief of Staff IV. The military attaches were divided up into groups of three to four officers in one motor car each with an accompanying officer to supply desired information. Generally the united military attaches were driven to specially interesting places in the immediate vicinity of the troops. Foreign military attaches always took part in the final survey conference and were invited by the Commander in Chief of the Army or the Chief of the General Staff to dinner together with higher German officers. A report on what had been shown and its positive or negative effect on the foreign military attaches or their comments was made by the Attache Branch for the superior agencies and the German military attaches abroad. The military attaches took part as spectators in

all parades at the end of maneuvers and at all the great parades in Berlin.

With a few exceptions, the foreign military attaches and sometimes their assistants at Berlin used to invite to their residences German officers chiefly from the Attache Branch and the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches. Whether or not to accept such invitations was decided by the Attache Branch. In addition the foreign ambassadors and ministers invited individual high ranking officers and the officers of the Attache Branch to their receptions or occasionally to dinner.

By way of returning the invitations of foreign military attaches and their assistants they were invited by the Assistant Chief of Staff IV and chief of the Attache Branch into their residences together with other German officers and their wives. From time to time the Commander in Chief of the Army invited the entire foreign military attaches corps alone or with their wives, but the Chief of the General Staff invited individual military attaches only. In exceptional cases individual military attaches took part in social events at the officers club. Social relations in general consisted in good fellowship, and, it seldom happened on these occasions, that someone tried to gain knowledge on military questions.

3. Relations with Foreign Armies*

The Attache Branch was responsible for maintaining relations with foreign armies and for preparing statistical statements on their condition. These relations consisted of mutual visits, detachments of

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* See Appendix B

personnel, purchases of arms, exchange of regulations, and, in the case of friendly nations, included training assistance.

Based on the reports of the German military attaches abroad and on the degree of cooperation shown them by the foreign country and operating within the limits of the military relations with the countries concerned, the Attache Branch proposed the extent of information to be given, the type and number of detachments which should be exchanged with the other armies and which armies should be permitted to send officers to the German Kriegsakademie*. After obtaining the approval of the Chief of the General Staff the proposals were submitted for final decision to the Commander in Chief of the Army or in exceptional cases to the Reich Minister of War.

The detachment of German officers to foreign armies served, primarily and successfully, to maintain and improve relations with foreign armies. The assignments were prepared in cooperation with appropriate agencies of the Army High Command and with the foreign military attaches but chiefly with the German military attaches. After obtaining the approval of superior agencies, detachments were organized and assigned. The individual officers received special instructions on the purpose of each detachment, on their attitude to the respective country, and on interesting military questions on which they might have to report.

The Attache Branch from time to time made compilations of the general information acquired in order to show the merit of these detachments in

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* German War College, roughly equivalent to American Command and General Staff School.

respect to mutual comradery between armies, mutual consideration, and extension of the German officer's horizon.

The detachment of foreign officers to the German army served not only to maintain good companionship but also to train the respective foreign officer for the benefit of his own army. Generally the foreign military attache at Berlin made a request for a detachment. The Attache Branch examined it and made the necessary arrangements with the competent agencies of the Army High Command. Upon approval by the Army High Command, the detachment was announced by the Attache Branch and the foreign and German military attaches informed accordingly.

Special instructions were given to the unit concerned as to the purpose of the detachment and what was to be shown to the foreign officer. An explanation of the political relations with the respective country as well as a statement on the character of the arriving foreign officer were included. From the reports which the units made on such detachments, it was evident that the field forces welcomed the foreign officers, and from remarks of the attaches it was concluded that the purpose aimed at was always served. The German Army could not accept as many officer detachments before the war as applied. Foreign armies expressed the wish to detach officers to the German Kriegsakademie as was done to a high degree with the "Ecole Superieure de Guerre" in France (up to fifty foreign officers, partly in the foreign section). Until shortly before the war about twenty foreign officers were detached to the Kriegsakademie at Berlin. Nominations came through the channels of the Attache Branch

who examined them and passed them on. Approval was in each case given by the Chief of the General Staff. Guiding rules on the participation of the individual foreigners at the different courses of instruction and travels were stipulated in cooperation with the training branch of the Army High Command and the Kriegsakademie. The foreign officers were assigned to their military attaches at Berlin who represented them at the Attache Branch. In other respects the foreign officers were full members of the various courses at the Kriegsakademie, and, when leaving, they received a diploma signed by the Chief of the General Staff.

On the suggestion of the German military attaches abroad, special delegations were invited by the Commander in Chief of the Army to take part in German maneuvers. These delegations were mostly led by higher generals, by the chiefs of the general staffs or their representatives, and two to four assistants. Preparation and execution of these projects was accomplished by the Attache Branch in a manner similar to the participation of the foreign military attaches in maneuvers. However, maneuvers were chosen other than those open to the military attaches. Also in these cases the guidance and organization was handled by the Attache Branch in the presence of the Assistant Chief of Staff IV. Assistance was given by specially selected escorting officers with knowledge of foreign languages. The Commander in Chief invited the delegation together with higher German officers to a large dinner party. The Attache Branch later evaluated the effects produced by the invitation as well as important conversations by members of the delegation.

Occasionally higher foreign officers with their escorts made courtesy calls on the Army or Wehrmacht High Commands or came for conferences. These visits were announced by the Attache Branch which prepared and carried through the program. The duties of the Attache Branch consisted of meeting the visitors at the station, a presentation of an honor guard, the placing of a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier in cooperation with the garrison headquarters at Berlin, arranging conferences, complying with expressed wishes of the visitors, preparing visits to the troops, escort during visits, and making introductions as high up as the minister of war, issuing invitations, making speeches and determining questions of Protocol.

Sport, since it is a peaceful contest between soldiers, was always looked upon as a favored international tie. During the last days before the war this referred especially to equestrian meets at which officers of different Armies were represented.

Independently of the invitations of international sport committees, the Attache Branch used military channels in order to make the necessary arrangements with the competent agencies of the foreign country and to take the matter in hand. In the same way the Attache Branch took care of foreign equestrian teams, that arrived in Germany on the occasion of larger meets, which took place especially at Berlin but also at Aachen, by assigning liaison officers of the Attache Branch to the meet committees, who on their part established connections with the local garrison commanders. In this way it was guaranteed that the care of foreign officers remained in distinctly military hands and no false idea was created through

having Nazi Party functionaries take care of those officers as "military comrades." In this way the necessary military receptions, the placing of wreaths, and so forth could be carried out in a dignified and simple soldierly manner.

The equestrian meet at Berlin in January 1939 was attended by teams from almost all armies, including France and Poland. At the meet at Aachen, which was cut short by the mobilization, the representative of the Attache Branch was successful in ensuring a smooth and quick departure of the foreign teams by securing the necessary cars and giving other assistance. In this case beside Belgians and Dutch, Romanians, Hungarians and Letts were also concerned, who had to cross half of Germany with their horses.

4. Cooperation with other German Agencies.

The manifold tasks of the Attache Branch made cooperation with many agencies of the Army High Command and the troops necessary, as well as with those of the Wehrmacht High Command, the Navy, the Luftwaffe, and some agencies outside the Wehrmacht.

The Attache Branch, chiefly by personal, oral report of its chief, had to report to its superiors without delay all important matters of the attache service and to ask for decisions. Furthermore, the Attache Branch carried through all affairs of representation for these superiors as far as foreign personages were concerned.

All distinctly military attache reports concerning foreign armies were distributed to the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches and generally passed on by these two branches to the agencies of the Army High

Command concerned. The handling of other attache reports was arranged by the Attache Branch in cooperation with the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches. The Attache Branch also took charge of questionnaires from those branches to the military attaches, examined them, passed them on, and gathered the results. Information was given to the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches on essential affairs of the attache and the foreign service.

Attache reports, except those sent to the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches, were forwarded to the Organization Branch in order for them to obtain records of foreign army construction. The reports were sifted for information which could be released to the German military attaches or to foreigners.

The Attache Branch arranged with Training Branch and Officer Training Branch for possible detachments of foreign military attaches and officers to the field forces, service schools and maneuvers, maneuvers for foreign military attaches and delegations, the release of regulations, the guidance of German military attaches, detachments, and for instruction in foreign languages for German officers abroad.

The Supply Branch received the questions of foreigners requesting information about supplies. The cooperation of the Supply Branch was sought in the affairs of territories occupied in time of peace (Austria, Sudetenland, Czecho-Slovakia, and others) such as prohibited areas for foreigners and facilities to cross them.

The Central Branch was concerned with the personal affairs of the

military attaches and the Attache Branch and with the release of all essential regulations issued by the Attache Branch.

In cooperation with Assistant Chief of Staff V and the Military Science Branch, well known foreign military personalities were secured to lecture at Berlin and other large cities on matters of military science. It was through the channels of the Attache Branch that the conduct of these lectures and care of the lecturers, the clarification of questions on military science, and the travels and lectures of German officers were coordinated.

In the problems of cooperation with friendly foreign countries and in arranging conferences, the Transportation Branch prepared special cars and trains of the Reich railroad for foreign delegations and for trips of the foreign attache corps on special occasions.

The Army Personnel Office was concerned with information on the Attache service, clarification of questions concerning leading personalities in foreign armies, cooperation in matters concerning detachments of German officers abroad, in providing escorts for foreign officers, representational affairs concerning foreigners or foreign countries, and with questions of decorations.

From the General Army Office, the Attache Branch received inquiries and gave information concerning the attache service and military affairs in foreign countries.

The Ordnance Inspectorate and its service schools participated in giving German military attachee and foreign officers special instruction

and training courses at the various ordnance schools.

The Inspector of the Riding and Driving Branch cooperated in the affairs of horsemen teams consisting of officers to be sent to foreign countries and in caring for foreign officers at German meets.

The Army Medical and Veterinary Inspectorates exchanged experiences on scientific matters with military agencies of friendly foreign countries through the channels of the Attache Branch and arranged to make mutual visitations of individuals and delegations and exchange of detachments.

The Army Budget Branch regulated the payment of the expenses of foreign officers and delegations who were present by special invitation of the Army at troop visits and maneuvers.

The Attache Branch furnished the Army Ordnance Office with information reports of the attaches and cooperating foreign military attaches, answered inquiries of the Ordnance Office on foreign armaments and equipment, arranged for close cooperation relative to foreign purchases of arms in Germany, and for visits of foreign military and civil individuals or delegations to the German armament industry.

The Army Administration Office received information and cooperation as did the other offices. The exchange of experiences with the military agencies of friendly countries passed through the channels of the Attache Branch, which also arranged the exchange of detachments of foreign and German administrative officials to inspect administrative institutions and supply procedures.

Arrangements with army group headquarters, military area headquarters,

divisions, troop units, garrison headquarters, and troop training camps were made to handle local matters relative to the detachment of foreign officers to the troops. Command regulations and directives controlling such situations were distributed. Visits of senior foreign officers or delegations at the capital (honor guards and receptions) and the participation of foreign military attaches and other foreign officers in parades at Berlin were coordinated with Wehrkreis* III and garrison headquarters in Berlin.

The Attache Branch also worked in close cooperation with the agencies of the Wehrmacht High Command.

Information on important matters concerning the German or foreign military attaches was forwarded immediately to the Adjutant's Office of the Reich Minister of War and to the Reich Minister of War or the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command channel for receipt of decisions through the Office of the Wehrmacht Adjutant with the Commander in Chief. The Foreign Group Wehrmacht High Command was furnished the regular attache reports and information on foreign military attaches at Berlin. The Foreign Group also cooperated in the entertainment of the high ranking foreign military guests of the Wehrmacht High Command.

Occasional cooperation with Wehrmacht General Office was required on questions concerning the attaches, for instance the care of ex-service men in foreign armies. The Wehrmacht Economic Office worked together

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* The basic military area of Germany, resembling somewhat the pre-war U.S. Corps Area.

with the military attache service on the problems of armament economy of foreign countries. The Chief of Wehrmacht Signal Communications instituted and maintained his own signal communications with the agencies of German military attaches in foreign countries and provided them with converters and encoding and decoding charts.

Administrative questions regarding the attache budget kept by the Attache Branch for the German military and naval attaches in foreign countries were worked out with the Wehrmacht Budget Branch. The allowances of the individual military and naval attaches were fixed in cooperation with the Foreign Office.

Close cooperation with the Attache Branches of the Navy High Command and the Reich Minister of Aviation (Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe) was required since the attache services had no uniform head. It was of special importance to cooperate closely and with understanding in the affairs of the services and in representation. Information contained in the attache reports concerning all essential problems, which were of interest to the other Attache Branches, tasks assigned to the attaches, and questions of cooperation with the foreign military attaches at Berlin were mutually exchanged.

Outside the Wehrmacht, the Attache Branch was concerned with cooperating with the Foreign Office and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the political branches, generally through the technical liaison officer of the Foreign Office at the High Command. The reports of the military attaches abroad, dispatched via the chiefs of the mission, made

it necessary at times to refer back and clear up occasional misunderstandings. The same applied to telegraphic exchanges and to diplomatic announcements by military attaches or their assistants and in the preparations for the creation of new military attache agencies.

Close cooperation with the Protocol Section was required in all questions of representation, regarding attendance of senior foreign officers on visits of state and similar occasions, and of the part taken by the top-level German military organizations. The Protocol Section was also concerned in representing the interests of the army on the occasion of an exchange of decorations.

The Courier Section of the Foreign Office accepted for delivery the sealed courier mail dispatched to the military attaches abroad and received the incoming courier mail. The Attache Branch was responsible for adhering to the courier regulations and with cooperating with the Courier Section on these questions. The Executive Office of the President was concerned with state visits, questions of rank, and the exchange of decorations. The Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the Foreign Office established allowances to be used in entertaining by military attaches abroad and in instituting new attache agencies. The Ministry of Communications arranged for special trains and cars needed in connection with the tours of foreign delegations. Police headquarters (as representative of the police in the Ministry of the Interior) protected the foreign military attaches during their stay in Germany in conformity with the treatment afforded foreign police officers and

German police officers in foreign countries. The housing officers gave assistance in procuring residences for foreign officers and for German military attaches returned from abroad.

5. General and Miscellaneous Activities

The Attache Branch prepared directives for contacts between German officers, officials, and soldiers and foreigners, and it had to approve and supervise such contacts. Before accepting an invitation it was necessary in each individual case to ask for the approval of the Attache Branch. It was desired that contacts actually remain at a minimum as well as correspondence, although the latter was permitted as a general rule.

The Attache Branch together with the Foreign Office and Army Personnel Office prepared a roster of foreigners. The purpose of the Attache Branch was to represent the interests of the German Army and of the foreign officers at all events of a representational character in which they participated, for instance at military receptions and displays, at visits to the heads of the Army and Wehrmacht, at invitations, orders of the table, wording and exchange of official speeches.

Basing their work on reports of the German military attaches, on those of the detached officers, and on remarks of the foreign military attaches at Berlin, the Attache Branch evaluated the results. These compilations were brought to the attention of the high-level command and other agencies concerned, indicating the reception met, the ties of comradery, the information offered and gained, and the practical result of

a detachment. The Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches evaluated the military knowledge contained in the reports. It was also the task of the Attache Branch to examine the usefulness of as many as possible of the officer detachments with regard to the relations with foreign armies and for the extension of the horizon of the German officers, and to evaluate the positive results.

In order to give superior agencies and other military persons, as well as the German military attaches, a basis for conversation when meeting foreigners either privately or officially, special lists of the foreign military attaches were compiled which indicated their military career, special training or knowledge of languages, special interests in military or political matters, the questions they had asked officially, their services and personal contacts with the Attache Branch, and social standing.

The state of mutual relations with the individual foreign armies, based on reports of attaches and detached officers and remarks of foreign military attaches, from which the level of mutual relations could be clearly derived, was from time to time summarized and submitted. Information reported by the German Army was also included. The relations between the armies corresponded in general to those between the nations politically, but as a rule, however, they were better and more considerate among the soldiers. The exchange of officers with the British Army, which began in 1935 and developed favorably in the following years, may serve as an example. These summaries on mutual relations also indicated where an

improvement had been achieved and also where a temporary reticence was advisable on the part of the German Army.

The foreign or German military attaches transmitted the desires of foreign armies for detachments of officers to the German Army. The Attache Branch examined the possibilities and obtained the permission of the responsible superiors. In cooperation with the training branch and by local inquiries, a suitable unit and time was determined.

The Attache Branch issued from time to time directives on the view of the service to be acquired by the foreigners, the secrecy to be maintained, and the information to be rendered. Furthermore, instructions were given on the treatment of foreign officers in the field, personal relations, invitations, and on remarks to be made in their presence. Special instructions for individual cases were often issued. A similar method was adopted for dealing with the foreign military attaches.

The foreign military attaches asked verbal or written questions about the German Army, either in accordance with their personal interest or upon instructions from their general staffs. The questions included those on training, equipment, organization, garrisons, numbers of corps, divisions, and regiments. As the German Army was in the course of reconstruction during this time, the answers to these questions were of great interest to the foreign military attaches, and no easy matter for the German Army High Command to answer. The Attache Branch obtained this information from the competent branches of the High Command on the actual status of affairs and found out how much information could be given and

be compatible with the necessary secrecy. After reporting to the Assistant Chief of Staff IV and to the Chief of the General Staff, the Attache Branch asked the permission of the Commander in Chief of the Army to suggest which military attache should get more details and which more limited information on the subject. This information was put in writing and, accordingly, the Chief of the Attache Branch distributed the information.

In certain frontier and fortress areas special territories were designated, in the interest of keeping the defense of the country secret, which were not to be entered by foreigners. Besides, territories occupied peacefully (Austria, Sudetenland) or territories in which troops were concentrated were temporarily declared prohibited areas. The Attache Branch informed the foreign military attaches in due time, and examined requests and arranged for special permissions to be given in exceptional cases.

The Attache Branch examined, through its channels and with or without prior inquiry in the respective country, the possibilities for a sojourn of German officers and soldiers in foreign countries, issued exit permits, and gave permission to stay abroad.

A special office, under the supervision of the chief of the Attache Branch and employing several officials, was in charge of the attache budget. This office paid the salaries, entertainment and travel allowances, office expenses and expenses for motor cars of the German military and naval attaches, their assistants and employees. This included procuring foreign

exchange and examining and approving the expenses. Funds were also under the administration of this office out of which all expenses entailed by the presence of foreign officers and delegations with the German army in connection with invitations and other entertainments were paid.

CHAPTER 3

THE ATTACHE BRANCH IN WAR*

I. ORGANIZATION, COMPOSITION AND BILLETING

1. From Mobilization Until the First Part of the Russian Campaign (1939-1941)

Upon mobilization the Attache Branch was enlarged. An officer on special assignment was attached to the Chief of the Branch. An operations officer was set up who carried through the mobilization, handled the signal communications, and gave information to the German and foreign military attaches on the war situation. A subsection for general affairs took charge of the personal affairs of the German military attache agencies, which were simultaneously enlarged. The five subsections for foreign countries were reorganized and a new press subsection created. A few auxiliary officers, courier officers and interpreters were added to the Attache Branch. A liaison officer to the Assistant Chief of Staff IV was sent to the headquarters of the Army High Command at Zossen where he took

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*Only particulars referring to alterations in or extensions of its activity have been included.

charge of forwarding messages and reports and obtained information on the combat situation. This agency was enlarged later on and included officers temporarily present at headquarters. The Attache Branch was part of the headquarters of the Army High Command but remained at Berlin because of the better communications with foreign countries, the presence of the foreign military attaches, and the necessary close cooperation with the Foreign Office.

2. Expansion of the Attache Branch (1941-1943)

The tasks of the Attache Branch were steadily enlarged in the course of the war. It was necessary to unite the subsections into sections under special section leaders. One or two auxiliary officers were attached to the operations section because one officer could not alone cope with working on the war situation, compilation of messages, and supervision of telegraph and courier stations. The general affairs section and the press subsection were combined into a central section. That in the meantime the German allies had sent special liaison staffs to army headquarters and had enlarged their military attache agencies, had to be taken into consideration. For closer cooperation with these allies the Attache Branch created a special allied section with three subsections. A neutral section, likewise with three subsections, handled the affairs of the military attaches of neutral countries and the German military attaches in those countries. The liaison staff at headquarters also had to be enlarged after November 1942, when the agency of the Assistant Chief of Staff IV was dissolved. The Attache Branch was made immediately subordinate to the Chief of the General Staff and the

Chief of the Branch traveled between headquarters and Berlin as often as three times a week.

Until early in summer 1942, the Attache Branch was at Berlin. Then the Chief of the Branch went to the Headquarters of the Army High Command at Winitza, formerly Russian Poland, together with the operations section and the allied section as well as six generals or colonels and their staffs from confederated countries. The remainder of the Attache Branch remained at Berlin as a second echelon. When in October and November the headquarters were transferred back to East Prussia, the Attache Branch returned to Berlin and the allied section was billeted in a separate house with the foreign military attaches and liaison staffs.

3. Limitation of Activities and Transfer to the Wehrmacht (1943-1945)

As of autumn 1943, there began to be placed a limitation on the activities of the Attache Branch in consequence of the secession of Germany's allies and a deterioration in relations with neutral countries. The Attache Branch was assigned in July 1944 to the Wehrmacht High Command.

The organization and composition of the Attache Branch was kept in about the same form it had in 1941-43 until the end of the war. The organizational alterations necessary were generally unimportant. At the end of July 1944, the Attache Branch was assigned to the Foreign Intelligence Group in the Wehrmacht Operations Staff and thus separated from the Army General Staff.

At the end of 1943, the bulk of the Attache Branch was transferred to Zossen near Berlin. The allied section and the foreign military attaches

and liaison staffs were billeted at Mellensee near Zossen. A liaison office for the neutral military attaches remained at Berlin, and, until July 1944, the liaison officer remained at the headquarters in East Prussia. In March 1945, the Attache Branch was transferred to Nigerseburg in Thuringia together with other parts of the headquarters. Before the capitulation it was stationed at St. Gilgen near Salzburg (Tirol).

II OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. During mobilization and at the Start of the War

Upon mobilization the Attache Branch and the agencies of the military attaches abroad were reinforced. In the case of the military attaches by the assignment of additional auxiliary officers to handle matters of the press, interpreters, assistants schooled in military economics, typists and coding personnel; all supervised by the Attache Branch.

The recall and departure of military attaches of countries that had declared war upon Germany was carried out through the Foreign Office in conjunction with the exchange of diplomats. The returned German military attaches joined the Attache Branch until they received another assignment. The subsections were partially reorganized. The signal communication facilities were arranged with the Assistant Chief of Staff IV, who had been transferred to Army High Command Headquarters at Zossen. Preparations were made for keeping the Attache Branch informed on the war situation. Orientation of the superior agencies (Assistant Chief of Staff IV,

Chief of the General Staff, Commander in Chief of the Army) and requests for decisions from them were reduced as far as possible. The Attache Branch endeavored to deal with all matters in its sphere in a way so as not to place too great a load on the command agencies of the Army High Command in charge of war operations.

The freedom of movement of the foreign military attaches had to be restricted because of the war, although their many inquiries during the time of mobilization and their interest in the war events had to be satisfied and properly directed. All detachments of foreign officers and soldiers were recalled and facilities for their departure prepared. This applied also to the twenty officers detached to the Kriegsakademie, since it was soon dissolved. German officers abroad were recalled, as far as this had not already occurred. Some foreign delegations of senior officers, who were still in Germany continued to inspect Army institutions until their departure and consequently had to be taken care of. A newly appointed military attache for Brazil was not sent. A new assignment was made in July 1940 with co-appointment for Argentina. Chile received a German military attache as well. Other posts were created for Iran, Thailand, and finally to the High Commissioner in Spanish Morocco.

2. <u>The German Military Attaches in Neutral, Friendly and Confederate Countries</u>

The German military attaches were charged with laying the greatest stress on reports concerning the war. It was important to know the attitude of the army of each respective country and the news

that friendly and neutral countries had on Germany's opponents, on their intentions, frame of mind, and the like. These reports were dispatched chiefly by wire, whereas reports sent by means of couriers consisted of summaries, confirmations of telegrams, or of less important affairs. The maintenance of good relations with the military agencies of each country was considered another important task.

The Attache Branch had had the experience in peacetime that the transmission of telegrams to the military attaches abroad and vice versa the reports of the military attaches to the Attache Branch took too much time. The reason was that all telegrams to the military attaches were transmitted via the Foreign Office, where they were read and finally passed on to the chiefs of the foreign missions, who generally delivered the messages to the military attaches only after the councilor of the legation had taken note of them. The return channel was the same. Consequently the Attache Branch introduced its own military attache codes for special military cases and provided the military attaches with converters. In spite of difficulties with the Foreign Office and its representatives abroad, the result was that the military attaches could forward messages of a military nature directly to the Attache Branch, thus saving considerable time. The Attache Branch acted in the same way in case of orientation and missions for military attaches, using the channel through the Foreign Office but only in case of general and not urgent information. The telephone service with allied and neutral countries had been improved through cooperation with the Chief of Wehrmacht Signal Communications. The courier was dispatched as in time

of peace via the courier agency of the Foreign Office; at times special couriers of the Attache Branch or the military attaches were sent.

Apart from the reports on the army of the respective country and its attitude to the war and to Germany, it was important that the military attaches endeavored to get information in a legal way on the enemy countries. The Attache Branch, in cooperation with several agencies of the Army High Command, especially the Western and Eastern Intelligence Branches, sent inquiries to that effect to the military attaches. In addition, messages of other military attaches and remarks of the foreign military attaches were transmitted to these agencies for examination. In several foreign countries German military attaches received orders to increase an interest in the German war operations, and they received data necessary for this purpose. They were to hold out the prospect of visiting the front if any interest was evinced.

The Attache Branch regularly informed the German military attaches on the operations at the front, based on data provided by the Operations Branch and on inquiries submitted to the Wehrmacht High Command and other agencies. This was also done from time to time as concerned the war situation, the state of armaments, and new weapons. Careful distinction was made as to which information was only for the Branch's own use, which was to be passed on to the German missions, and which was destined for the general staff of the country. During the course of the war, information given to Germany's allies by the military attaches played an important part, as did the transmission of demands of the German High Command to

its allies, and correspondingly to the satisfaction of the wishes of the allied general staffs.

During the course of the war, the individual military attaches were regularly ordered to take part in conferences and reports at the Attache Branch and other agencies in the zone of interior. They were kept posted on all new experiences and received short assignments to schools and to the front. After the western campaign all military attaches in Europe and the Near East were called together for a long conference at headquarters followed by a visit to the battlefields.

In cooperation with the Wehrmacht Press Branch the military attaches were informed by telegraph or by couriers on all interesting matters contained in the German and foreign press. Periodicals, books, descriptions of the war, and other records were sent to them in part translated into foreign languages.

Some friendly and neutral countries were particularly interested so that this propaganda work was generally very successful. In the same measure German military war films, and, where permissible, training films were in great demand. They were sent to the German military attaches and then shown at their residences to foreign guests. Eight milimeter films were sometimes in the hands of the attaches three weeks after production. In some cases the periodical and book material as well as individual films were placed at the disposal of the foreign country at the request of the military agencies. The German military attaches were obliged to make regular reports on important publications in the foreign, especially the

military press and particularly articles on the military situation of the enemy states.

When relations with a foreign country were severed, the respective military attache returned to Berlin and was temporarily but officially assigned to the Attache Branch. Here he concluded his remaining business and completed projects concerning the army of the foreign country to which he had been formerly assigned. Later he received a new appointment, mostly to the front, but sometimes he was used again after a lapse of time as a military attache because of his professional training.

3. Military Attaches in Axis Countries

It soon became evident during the war that the military attaches with their very small staffs were not in a position to function as liaison staffs with the allied high commands in addition to their activity as members of the German diplomatic missions. Since preparations for a coalition war had been started too late by the German High Command, a uniform arrangement could no longer be carried through in the capitals of the individual confederated countries, but improvisations were made, so that several agencies worked side by side. Service regulations had to be frequently changed in the course of the war. Under the given circumstances, it was important to create a higher military agency at the capital of the allied country, which could work on questions of operational conduct of war unhampered by the restrictions to which the military attaches were subjected, such as the channels of report via the chief of the mission and the Foreign Office. These channels, therefore, had to be eliminated

and the person in question assigned to the military command exclusively. In rare cases, partly based on questions of rank, as at Rome and later on at Budapest, the military attache, familiar with the business routine, was assigned this mission and his staff enlarged to cope with the new tasks.

In this way the military attache at Rome, when Italy entered the war, was appointed German General at the High Command of the Italian Armed Forces, at the same time retaining his former functions. In this capacity he was attached to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, and reported directly to the Wehrmacht High Command as of 20 September 1940. A colonel was assigned to him who took charge of the current attache affairs as representative of the military attache. The German General had the following missions after German troops were committed in the Mediterranean area:

(1) Liaison between the Wehrmacht High Command and the Italian High Command on all questions concerning the conduct of war, especially coordination of joint operations and representation of German interests at the Italian High Command.

(2) Coordination of German transports on Italian railroads. Also naval and air transports.

(3) Supplying the German forces in Italy and Africa and delivering arms and equipments to the Italian troops.

(4) Territorial command authority of all German forces and institutions in Italy.

(5) Extension of German signal communications in Italy and Africa.

(6) Monetary matters concerning the ally. Coordination of the German and Italian armed forces reports and press releases. Cooperation of the German and Italian war economy.

In spring 1943, a German headquarters for a group of armies was created in Italy, which took charge of transportation, supplies, and welfare matters.

After Slovakia had been declared independent in spring 1939, a legation and the position of a military attache was created, which worked at Bratislava according to the basic attache regulations. After several German generals had been active in this country with special missions, a German army mission under a general was created after the Polish campaign, in addition to the military attache. This mission cooperated in an advisory capacity on the establishment of the Slovakian armed forces and its training. Its chief was assigned to the Wehrmacht High Command (Foreign Branch) and reported directly to both the Slovakian and German commands. The military attache was independent in his affairs and was not subordinate to the chief of the mission. Temporary difficulties in cooperation could not be avoided. Later on a brigadier general was sent to Bratislava as Chief of the Luftwaffe Mission to deal with the very modest Slovakian air force. Furthermore a Luftwaffe major general was stationed in little Slovakia as commander of the so-called protection zone.

The Slovakian forces committed in Russia from 1941 to 1942 (one Slovakian motorized division and one security division) were assigned to the local German command agencies, and a German liaison command was attached

to each of them.

When Romania after the Vienna Arbitration, August 1940, improved its relations to Germany and asked for German aid in training matters, a German army mission in Romania was established, independent of the German military attache who had been sent along previously, and this mission conducted training in Romania with staffs and instruction units and was subordinate to the Chief of the Army General Staff. Later on when operations against Russia were prepared and carried out, the chief of this mission was appointed Chief of the Wehrmacht Mission or German General at the Romanian High Command, attached in this capacity to the Chief of the Army High Command. This agency cooperated in general foreign affairs with the Attache Branch and in other affairs with the agencies of the Wehrmacht and Army High Commands.

The chief of this mission was later stationed at the headquarters of the Romanian Commander in Chief outside of Bucharest. The military attache usually cooperated smoothly with the chief of the Army and Wehrmacht mission, without being subordinate to him.

When joint conduct of the war had been agreed upon with Finland, a senior general of the Army High Command was sent on 13 June 1941 to Finland as commander of the Liaison Staff North with a specially composed staff. His location was first at Helsinki and later at the headquarters of the Marshal of Finland, Baron Mannerheim. His mission was to coordinate the German-Finnish conduct of war. The liaison staffs of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe and the Navy, which were identical with the attaches

of these branches of the armed forces, were not subordinate to him. The general was assigned to the Chief of the Army General Staff and cooperated chiefly with the Operations Branch. The military and the naval attaches, and later on the Luftwaffe attache (whose location had been at Stockholm) continued their former activities and were not included in the work of the commander of the Liaison Staff North. The attaches were not made subordinate to the commander.

At first cooperation with the military attache was good in spite of the separate location. Because of the changes difficulties arose, so that on 24 February 1942 the responsibilities had to be strictly defined. On 20 September 1942 upon the arrival of German forces in Finland, the commander of the liaison staff was granted the authority of a Wehrkreis commander. On 4 November 1942, the appointment was specified as German General at the High Command of the Finnish Armed Forces assigned to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, reporting directly to the Wehrmacht Operations staff. Cooperation with the agencies of the Army General Staff remained as before. New service regulations defined relations between the German General and the military, navy and air attaches, whose services he was allowed to employ. He had the right to inform himself from the reports of the attaches. On 17 August 1944, the military attache was assigned to him.

When in spring 1941 Croatia was made independent, cooperation with the Croatian armed forces, that were in course of being established, was taken charge of by the German General in Croatia, assigned to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, who reported directly to the Wehrmacht High

Command (Foreign Group) but also sent the same reports to the Attache Branch of the Army General Staff, with which he closely cooperated. A diplomatically accredited assistant military attache was detached to the German legation at Zagreb, who was assigned to the Army High Command (Attache Branch) and to the German General, carrying out for the latter the daily activities of a military attache.

In Hungary the German military attache had been readily included in the attempt to bring about a coordination of the joint conduct of war, and his agency had been enlarged to serve its needs. Also the direct and fast message channel for operational matters by means of attache codes, radio, telephone, or special couriers functioned smoothly. Not until autumn 1943, did a newly appointed senior military attache simultaneously become German General at the High Command of the Hungarian Armed Forces and subordinate in this capacity to the Wehrmacht High Command, whereas in his capacity as military attache he was assigned to the Army High Command (Attache Branch).

After 1941, an independent training staff worked side by side with the military attache accredited, since 1937, in Bulgaria. These agencies were combined in 1942 by the Army High Command. On 30 January 1944, the post of German General at the High Command of the Bulgarian Armed Forces was established at Sofia. The new German General took over the training affairs from the military attache and as a new task the problems of a joint conduct of war. The military attache was detached to the German General and continued his former activity as a chief of staff, whereas

a colonel took over his daily affairs with the title of assistant military attache. The German General was assigned to the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command, the military attache to the Chief of the Army General Staff.

4. Development of the Wehrmacht Military Attache

This institution was a makeshift and originated in the desire of the Wehrmacht High Command to control the whole foreign service. The manner in which it was being executed, however, did not serve this purpose.

The Wehrmacht High Command in case of a mobilization had planned to assign to itself the attache service of the three high commands, Army, Navy, and Luftwaffe. This was, however, not carried out. The three attache Branches were to have been assigned to the Wehrmacht High Command.

The military, navy, and air attaches at the German legations and embassies abroad actually did not have any single head in a military sense. The Wehrmacht High Command had appointed the senior attache present as Wehrmacht Attache but only to represent the interests of the Wehrmacht High Command. The mission of the Wehrmacht attache was limited to reporting on the establishment of armed forces agencies in the foreign country and on all questions concerning its entire armed forces. The Wehrmacht attache was not superior to the other attaches. In the course of the war the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command decreed that it was the mission of the Wehrmacht attache to correlate the reports of the attaches representing the three branches of the armed forces.

The Wehrmacht attache was not appointed on the strength of his military training, his experiences in the foreign service, nor on the

strength of the importance of his branch of arms in the foreign country, but only on the basis of seniority. The selection and especially the promotion of the attache depended upon fundamentally different principles which guided the three branches of the armed forces so that the right person seldom became Wehrmacht attache, representing the acknowledged uniform head of the military attache service in a foreign country and the German mission.

5. Foreign Military Attaches and Officers Remaining in Berlin

At the beginning of the war the military attaches of those countries that had severed relations with Germany left the country during the days of mobilization together with the diplomatic representatives, and, until they did, they were restricted in their freedom of movement. The bulk of the other foreign officers, not belonging to the diplomatic corps, also returned to their respective countries, after the Attache Branch had announced the termination of their detachment to the German army. Another portion had temporarily been assigned to the military attaches representing their country. All foreign military attaches and their assistants were required during the first period of the war to stay in Berlin. They frequently called on the Attache Branch and received information within the limits of the necessary secrecy.

The majority of the military attaches, impressed by the success of the Polish campaign, openly expressed their interest in operations nor were they hesitant in offering congratulations. That no reticence stemmed from political considerations was perceptible. Social exchanges and good

fellowship started again soon after the beginning of the war.

The friendly, later in part confederate, military attaches and officers remained in Berlin. It was evident that preferential treatment must be accorded these military attaches in order to increase their interest and confidence in Germany. They received increased orientation and facilities to inspect army installations and were furnished with press and propaganda material as well as the first released war experiences.

No change took place either in the personal or official relations with the military attaches of neutral states. They received information of a general character only, because the possibility always existed that their messages might come to the knowledge of persons for whom they were not intended. Instead of that they received comments from the Wehrmacht bulletin, war reports for the press, and similar material. In the course of the war they had sufficient opportunity to visit the troops. Military attaches were seldom dealt with separately until some of the armies they represented joined the war on Germany's side, thus bringing about new relationships for their representatives to the Army High Command.

The foreign military attaches received daily through the Attache Branch the Wehrmacht bulletin and a comment with it about two hours before another agency gave it to the press. In this way the foreign military attaches were enabled to inform their general staffs through their channels on the latest news of the war situation in advance of other agencies. Besides they frequently received written orientations which

went beyond the official bulletin as regards indication of places.

The operations officer of the Attache Branch oriented the military attaches by means of a special situation map on all items released. From time to time the foreign military attaches could discuss the war situation with the Chief of the Attache Branch, who answered their questions within the limits of the necessary secrecy. The military attaches of cooperating states received more frequent and detailed information, but even in these cases a certain reticence was never abandoned.

Visits to troops, training schools and institutions of the Replacement Training Army were continued for it was of great importance for the Attache Branch to keep the foreign military attaches in good spirits and well interested and to avoid a feeling on their part that they were being neglected on account of more important things.

For this reason the Attache Branch asked permission of the Commander in Chief to carry out visits to the troops and especially training schools and institutions of the Replacement Training Army with the military attaches. From time to time the attaches took part in special training courses occasionally carried out with live ammunition for the infantry, artillery and armored command schools and the school for mobile troops. They visited two engineer schools in order to see obstacle construction service, operations on rivers and water ways, and anti-pill box operations. The Army Administration Office gave demonstrations of modern army supply service. From time to time training, war and merely entertainment films were shown. All these visits ended with a friendly meeting of the foreign and German

officers.

As professional soldiers the foreign military attaches were constantly desirous of seeing the German front and real war. The responsible superior agencies, upon application of the Attache Branch, soon gave permission to visit the front and the war zone.

These visits to the front were prepared in cooperation with the Operations Branch and the front command posts with the necessary means of transportation and guiding officers provided. The military attaches, their assistants, and in some cases also the naval and air attaches were invited in a group and driven to the front in special cars or trains through the cooperation of the Chief of Transportation. When airplanes were used they were divided into groups, one following the other. Guidance and responsibility was in the hands of the Chief of the Attache Branch.

The foreign attaches could on occasion take part in current operations; otherwise a visit of the battlefield was carried out immediately on the termination of combat, and troop commanders described the course of events at the place where the fighting had taken place. The military attaches were allowed to ask questions, to take notes and to a limited extent to take photographs. For these visits invitations were sometimes made in order to arrange a meeting between the foreign attaches and German troop commanders and field officers.

Among others the following front visits were made by the foreign military attaches:

Polish campaign:	As far as Modlin during the fight for Warsaw; to Warsaw three days after its fall.
Before the French campaign:	West Wall near Saarbruecken and troop training areas behind the front.
French campaign:	June 1940 via Aachen, Brussels to the area around Dunkirk (La Panne).
Balkans:	Spring 1941 immediately upon the occupation of Greece via Sofia, the Rupel Pass and Saloniki to the Isthmus of Corinth.
Russian campaign:	Autumn 1941 near Lake Ilmen to Army Group North July 1942 to Kiev, Saporozye, Crimea, Sevastopol and Kerch. Autumn 1943 positions in front of Leningrad near Eighteenth Army Headquarters (Army Group North).
France:	February 1943 to the Coastal defense on the Channel and Atlantic and troop training of reserve units including armored divisions.

When, at the beginning of 1942 Italy, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Croatia sent, in proportion to the strength of their armies, forces for commitment at the eastern front, the main point of effort of the Attache Branch became cooperation with the allies and the German liaison staffs at the allied high commands at the front. In addition there was the close cooperation with the Finnish General at the German High Command, the Japanese military attache, and the Spanish military attache in affairs of the Spanish volunteer division committed at the eastern front.

Before the start of the summer attack of the German eastern army with its allies and foreign volunteer formations in 1942, the first echelon of the Attache Branch with the allied military attaches and their liaison staffs were transferred to the headquarters of the Army High Command which had moved from East Prussia to Winitza in former Russian Poland. Here they were joined by the Finnish General and his staff who had formerly been stationed at the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff IV. The second echelon of the Attache Branch remained at Berlin. Good signal communications facilitated the control of this echelon from headquarters. New tasks given the Attache Branch included exchange of mutual information on the course of operations, reports on this subject to the Assistant Chief of Staff IV and the Chief of the General Staff, orientation of the Operations Branch, receipt of the wishes and demands of Germany's allies which came through from the allied attaches, from the generals of the German liaison staffs, the German military attaches, and from the allied general staffs. These requests were presented by the Attache Branch to the agencies

of the German General Staff or Army and Wehrmacht High Commands. The Attache Branch arranged necessary conferences between allied military attaches and agencies of the Army General Staff of the Wehrmacht High Command. At times the attaches were received by the Assistant Chief of Staff IV or by the Chief of the General Staff accompanied by the Chief of the Attache Branch. At the same time the Attache Branch had to transmit and present the demands of the German High Command to Germany's allies.

All facilities were arranged so that the allied military attaches and liaison staffs could secure quick telephone and telegraph communication with their general staffs and front forces. At this period of the war, beside the Finnish armed forces, fighting jointly with Germany, there were about fifty allied divisions including security divisions at the eastern front. Besides, there were volunteer forces in the form of the Spanish Blue Division, as well as regiments and battalions of Frenchmen, Walloons, Flemings, Danes, Finns, later on also of Latvians and Estonians, and eventually about 100 battalions composed of eastern peoples.

A joint discussion of the situation took place daily under the Chief of the Attache Branch, on which occasion the operations officer of the branch reported on the situation at the front as indicated on a situation map; in addition the allied generals and military attaches reported on developments at their fronts and theaters of war including Japan.

The Attache Branch also had such tasks as arranging visits at the front and at schools. Giving assistance in training, sending detachments

to the reopened war academy, of German training and instruction parties to allied countries, and maintaining liaison with the competent agencies of the general both the front and the replacement training forces.

The officers of the Attache Branch were billeted and worked together with the allied military attaches in the same block of houses and went to the same officer's club, where lectures were delivered by experts of the High Command in their field of interest.

When the German headquarters returned to East Prussia at the beginning of Winter 1942, the forward echelon of the Attache Branch with the allied military attaches and generals went to Berlin. The allied section of the Attache Branch was again quartered in a special house together with the agencies of the allied military attaches, and cooperated with them as before at Winitza. This method was kept up during all changes of location until the termination of the war.

Apart from the front visits provided for all military attaches, the military attaches of the allied countries drove or flew accompanied by an escort officer of the Attache Branch to their high commands or forces committed at the front, mostly in conformity with their wishes for orientation at the front, or the desires of troop commanders who wished to confer on their affairs. In particular cases it was necessary that the military attaches go to the front on the request of the German General Staff in order to clear up causes for allied reverses and to settle misunderstandings. For such trips the Attache Branch and the escort officers provided all facilities for the allied military attaches.

From time to time leading friendly or allied military personages visited headquarters of the Army and Wehrmacht High Commands for conferences, partly at their own desire, partly on the initiative of the Army or Wehrmacht High Commands.

It was the task of the Attache Branch to transmit the items to be discussed, to arrange a time, and to prepare the discussions and the invitations to it, to draw up a program, and to make arrangements for an escort. The Chief of the Attache Branch accompanied the guests to the Chief of the General Staff, the Commander in Chief of the Army and the Commander in Chief of the Wehrmacht. Among others present at headquarters were the commander of the Spanish volunteer division and his successor, the Japanese General Yamashita, the Chiefs of Staff of Hungary and Romania, and the Bulgarian Minister of War. Chiefs of state and persons like the Finnish Marshal Mannerheim, who were invited as guests of the supreme commander, were taken care of by other agencies.

Important personages visiting the front frequently went to the headquarters first and were accompanied by the German military attaches or German Generals at the allied high command. Their interests were represented in the same way.

A great many leading men came to Berlin for conferences with both agencies of the Army and the Wehrmacht High Commands. As far as the Army was concerned they were received by the Commander of the Replacement Training Army and invited by him or the Assistant Chief of Staff T. Preparation of the program was also effected through the Attache Branch which at

times also handled visits at agencies of the Wehrmacht High Command.

All foreign military attaches received the most important publications of the German press and extracts from the foreign press for their information and instruction. They received commentaries on the Wehrmacht Bulletin, books and war reports. The latter also duly referred to the achievements of Germany's allies. At certain times the Attache Branch showed motion pictures to the foreign military attaches at Berlin or for the allies during their stay at the headquarters.

Since mutual invitations and a certain amount of entertainment were part of the diplomatic service, this could not be completely dismissed even in war. Moreover, numerous delegations came to Berlin for conferences in connection with the friendly and allied military attaches, and many visits to the Replacement Training Army took place. On all such occasions the foreign military attache provided entertainment, which had somehow to be returned. The Commander of the Replacement Training Army or the Assistant Chief of Staff V, often took care of this, at least until the beginning of 1941, although the Attache Branch had to make the preparations. On other occasions friendly and neutral military attaches frequently entertained the officers of the Attache Branch, so the Chief of the Attache Branch had to return such invitations at his home or at a hotel in a way adapted to war conditions. This was necessary to cultivate good relations with the foreign military attaches. Then, too, when there was a change of military attaches or their senior assistants, social invitations were necessary, at which occasion a farewell gift was presented. It could

not always be avoided that the Chief of the General Staff in certain instances had to invite foreign military attaches to headquarters in spite of the fact that he was overburdened with more important duties.

6. Relations with Axis and Neutral Armies.

In time of war as well as of peace, it was the mission of the Attache Branch to cultivate relations with the armies of foreign states. Since there had been no possibility for this during the time of mobilization, it assumed manifold proportions especially with regard to armies which changed from a friendly basis to one of allies. Beyond that it was important to interest the neutral states and to support the activity of the German military attaches in those countries, especially since the German command obtained raw material partly from neutral countries for which it supplied in return arms and equipment. For this purpose the most efficient method was to have foreign military attaches visit German service schools and, if possible, the front.

Although an exchange of detachments was not possible as in peacetime, German officers with war experience could still be sent to friendly countries to lecture or assist in training. In this way German officers were sent to Italy, Hungary, and Finland. Later on the German Army missions and German Generals at the allied high commands took charge of these tasks, partly in cooperation with the Attache Branch. It could, however, also be arranged to detach individual officers to the German military attaches in some neutral countries where they delivered lectures on war experiences before invited guests.

The allied and friendly armies had an opportunity, shortly after the beginning of the war, to detach officers to the Replacement Training Army. Only exceptional cases were permitted to be detached to the replacement forces; mostly the officers were sent to the service schools. Although in this way numerous Italian, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovakian, Spanish, Finnish, Bulgarian, Japanese, some Croatian, and in 1939-41 Russian officers were detached at different times to the Replacement Training Army. Several Italian, Hungarian, Slovakian, and Bulgarian officers took part in the training courses of the Kriegsakademie. A few foreigners were temporarily with the forces and staffs at the front. The detachments of officers of neutral countries were fewer in number and for only short periods.

On the initiative of the German military attaches abroad, individuals and delegations of allied, friendly or neutral armies were invited to visits at the front. The Attache Branch made suggestions as to what was to be shown and in which sector of the front and received accordingly the permission of the Commander in Chief of the Army or the Chief of the General Staff. The Attache Branch prepared and carried through the tour in cooperation with the front line forces.

In the same way visits to the Replacement Training Army were arranged.

The first tour of this kind was carried out by the Chief of the Attache Branch during the last part of the Polish campaign with Hungarian, Finnish and American officers, some of the latter having previously been detached to the Kriegsakademie. Japanese Colonel General Terauchi was at the West

Wall and on the Polish battlefields. The Hungarian Chief of Staff inspected the battlefields after the French campaign. Several Italian delegations carried out study trips. A large-sized Japanese commission under General Yamashita stayed for three months with the German Army. The Attache Branch prepared the program for them. The Japanese commission visited among other things battlefields in Poland and France, visited all training schools and was frequently received by the top-level command agencies. A large Turkish and later on a Bulgarian delegation visited the southern sector of the eastern front. Several Swiss medical missions worked in special hospitals in the eastern theater of war. Further visits were made by Finnish, Spanish, Rumanian, Hungarian and Slovakian delegations. When the Portuguese War Ministry, with which hardly any relations had been kept in time of peace, showed special interest for the German army and the war, officer delegations were several times given the opportunity to visit the front and service school. The reports of these officers are said to have been most positive.

7. Extension of Cooperation to Other Military Agencies

The cooperation with the agencies described above during peace was continued during the war, but in addition the war brought about an extension of such cooperation with some agencies, and in some cases additional agencies were added.

Within the Army High Command, cooperation was extended to the German Army missions, training staffs in foreign countries, and German liaison staffs to the allied forces.

Through the General Staff cooperative agencies included:

The Operations Branch for records through the Attache Branch and for the situation reports and questions concerning the commitment of the allies; the Organization Branch for cooperation on the organization of liaison staffs and army agencies in foreign countries; the Training Branch for assistance in training of allies, including questions of training staffs to be sent abroad, regulations; the Chief of Supply and Administration for many questions of supplies and equipment for allies; the Chief of Transportation for transportation of allies and for supplies and engineer equipment provided for the allies; the Chief Signal Officer for signal communications with the Attache Branch from headquarters to Berlin and to the German military attaches, as well as of allied military attaches to their general staffs and front forces; the General of the Luftwaffe at the Army High Command for special airplanes for visits at the front; the Assistant Chief of Staff I for information given all allied military attaches on the situation and preparatory measures for the commitment of the allies in 1942.

The Commander of the Replacement Training Army (and the General Army Office) provided for the detachment of foreigners to the Replacement Training Army and service schools, and for the reception and invitation of senior foreign officer delegations on the occasion of their presence at Berlin.

The Army Ordnance Office in the course of the war was concerned with the increasing mutual detachment of commissions with allied armies, with

representing the interests of foreign commissions at Berlin and questions of supplies of arms to allies and neutrals.

Command agencies of the front line forces (army groups and armies) coordinated visits to the front, detachments to the front of German and allied military attaches and other foreign officers.

Within the Wehrmacht the Attache Branch needed the cooperation of such agencies of the Wehrmacht High Command as: the Adjutant's Office of the Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command and the Adjutant's Office of the Wehrmacht at the Commander in Chief for the receptions of higher foreign officers, time schedules, escorts; the Deputy Wehrmacht Operations Staff for reports on the situation in the Wehrmacht Theaters of war; foreign groups whose cooperation was even closer than in peace in all matters of the military attaches and the military interests of foreign countries, and on questions about Wehrmacht Attaches and the German Generals at the allied high commands; the German Wehrmacht missions and German Generals at the allied high commands in matters of cooperation with the German military attaches residing in the same country and in questions of detachments of allies to the Army, as well as some general affairs; the General Wehrmacht Office for the visit and care during their stay at Berlin of the delegations of the Swiss Protective Power in caring for prisoners of war; the Wehrmacht Economic Office for increased cooperation in military economic questions of foreign countries and the war economy assistants of the military attaches; the Wehrmacht Propaganda Branch for press releases and books, periodicals, films for the

attache service, delivery of attache reports concerning this material and the foreign press in the country to which the attache was accredited.

With the Armistice Commission at Vichy the Attache Branch was concerned with the instructions to the Commission concerning liaison with the foreign military attaches accredited to the French government at Vichy and in taking care of their interests and reports to the Attache Branch.

8. Miscellaneous

Through the war most of the directives for giving information to foreign military attaches and officers, which were adapted to peace conditions, were voided. Increased secrecy was necessary, inasmuch as the most confidential information might unintentionally be passed on to the enemy. Consequently greater reserve had to be exercised and more general information given to the foreign military attaches, which was, partly, also accessible to the press. In the meantime the Attache Branch was newly orientated by the superior agencies, and new directives were stipulated for the giving of information from time to time concerning the war situation, armament, reflections on operational possibilities, and what foreign officers would be allowed to see in the field of the Replacement Training Army.

It was important to arrange the front visits in such a way that the foreign visitors would be strongly and lastingly impressed by the performances of the German soldiers and by the German fighting power with its reserves of men, armaments, and material. The officers of the Attache Branch in charge, therefore, examined carefully whether the

things shown served this purpose, how they had been received, and what impression they made according to the personal remarks of the foreign officers. Special attention was paid to the occasional utterances of foreign officers during personal conversations on the attitude of their country towards Germany, the war, the enemy countries, and on their judgment of future prospects. The front line forces reported on their experiences, and the German military attaches on that what was said by the foreigners after their return. The German military attaches also reported on the effects of front line and other visits on the attitude of the leading military agencies of their respective countries. In the same way the visits to the front of the foreign military attaches were evaluated. All information and experiences gained from the compiled records were reported to the interested agencies, and utilized when preparing further front and troop visits.

At the beginning of the war, the Chief of the Attache Branch was almost daily informed by telephone on the progress of the important operations by his immediate superior, the Assistant Chief of Staff IV, in order to adapt accordingly the information to be given to the German and foreign military attaches. In the course of the war, regulations and procedures were established by the Chief of the General Staff. The Operations Branch transmitted daily to the Attache Branch its reports on the situation, occasionally adding a situation map of the eastern front. On application the Operations Branch gave a summary of its estimates of the situation for use of the Attache Branch. When reporting to the Assistant Chief of

Staff IV and the Chief of the General Staff, the Chief of the Attache Branch received suggestions and instructions for the attache information service. The Chief of the Attache Branch also obtained now and then from the Deputy Chief of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff at the Army High Command general information on the situation in the war theaters of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff, because the Chief of the Army General Staff, alone, conducted the combat on the eastern front.

From these records the Chief of the Attache Branch on his own responsibility compiled and issued separately the following orientations on the situation:

(1) Telegraphic information on the situation to the German military attaches in allied countries and to German Generals at allied high commands, indicating what could be passed on to the general staff of the allied country.

(2) Telegraphic information to the German military attaches in neutral countries with a similar indication as to the general staff of the respective country.

(3) Written information of a general character to all foreign military attaches.

(4) Specially compiled information on the situation, through military attache channels or the German Generals at allied high commands, sent by wire to the Hungarian Regent, the Romanian Marshal and the Marshal of Finland.

(5) Report on the situation to the joint allied military

attaches and generals with a special situation map.

(6) Individual information given to neutral military attaches on another situation map, through the operations officer of the Chief of the Attache Branch.

Although a certain continuity was desired, a change of officers and alterations in the Attache Branch and other agencies was unavoidable in time of war. The Attache Branch, therefore, had to prepare plans and bring them into accord with the Central Branch of the General Staff, later with Branch 3 of the Personnel Office, as these agencies had control over changes in personnel.

In compliance with their wishes, a portion of the military attaches were released for service at the front and replaced. Others were temporarily detached to the front and deputies had to be appointed. The need of auxiliary officers increased considerably during the war and had to be met. On the other hand it proved advisable to employ officers, who had been at the front, as assistants to military attaches, for which purpose wounded or convalescent officers were useful. The office personnel was also constantly changing since it was not expedient to leave individual clerks or soldiers too long abroad. Cooperation with the Army Administration Office and the General Army Office was necessary here.

The same conditions prevailed at the Attache Branch. Some of the officers went to the front, others were temporarily employed as representatives of military attaches or first assistants. Also the demand for a certain reduction in age of the technical staff officers had to

be taken into account. The military attaches or assistants going abroad were detached, according to their requirements, for a longer or shorter period of training to the Attache Branch.

The regular courier communications with the German military attaches ran from the courier office at the Attache Branch through the courier office channel of the Foreign Office. The Foreign Office couriers departed once, or, at most, twice weekly on set days. Since sometimes in the course of the war especially urgent matters had to be dispatched to the military attaches, the Foreign Office agreed that officers of the courier office of the Attache Branch or detached officers might also function as official couriers. These officers were generally instructed by the Chief of the Attache Branch to negotiate affairs of the military attaches verbally, to accept their requests, and transmit special messages. In this way direct and fast communications with many attache agencies were established.

APPENDIX A

ORGANIZATION AND DISPOSITION OF DUTIES
OF THE ATTACHE BRANCH IN PEACETIME 1938-39

Chief of the Attache Section

Sub Section I (Deputy Chief)

Compiled elaborations and reports of a general nature.

Cooperation with the protocol of the Foreign Office and Personnel Office.

Directions for contact with foreigners.

Personnel affairs; foreign leave.

Prohibited areas.

Participation of foreign military attaches and delegations in maneuvers, parades, or special state functions.

Concentration of the German military attaches for an attache meeting.

Sub Section II	Sub Section II a
England	Italy
France	Spain
Belgium	Portugal
Holland	Switzerland

Sub Section XIX

U.S.A.

Central and South America

China

Sub Section IV

Czechoslovakia

Hungary

Yugoslavia

Greece

Bulgaria

Rumania

Turkey

Iran

Sub Section V

Poland	Sweden
Lithuania	Norway
Latvia	Denmark
Estonia	Russia
Finland	Japan

Administration

Financial matters of the German military and naval attaches. Budget, with Army and Wehrmacht High Commands, expenses for invitations of foreigners at Army. Office of Attache Sections, employees (with I)

Administration (II)

Distribution and forwarding of in and outgoing matters. Office Affairs.

Courier Office

Collecting courier mail for dispatch to foreign countries. Passing it on to Foreign Office. Incoming courier mail.

Sub Sections II - V jointly

Distribution of reports in connection with the Branches Foreign Armies East and West. Handling of reports. Affairs of the foreign and German military attaches. Memorandums for reports to the Commander in Chief of the Army, Chief of General Staff. Assistant Chief of Staff IV, from attache reports concerning foreign military attaches. Detachments of foreign officers to the German Army and of German officers to foreign countries. Relations to foreign Armies.

APPENDIX B

GERMAN AND FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES

RELATIONS TO FOREIGN ARMIES IN PEACETIME 1938-39

German military attaches in	Foreign military attaches at Berlin from	Mutual relations
U.S.A.	U.S.A.	from U.S.A. one officer permanently at Kriegsakademie. Exchange of visits. At the end German medical inspector and assistants in U.S.A.
Great Britain	Great Britain	Mutual exchange of detachments of three officers for four to six weeks. Courtesy calls. Autumn 1938 Field-marshal Sir Feverell, General Ironside at Wehrmacht maneuvers in Germany.
France	France	Courtesy calls. Mutual invitations to parades. Mutual participation at equestrian meets.
Belgium	Belgium	same as France

Co-appointment in Holland (Seat at Brussels)	Came from Holland from time to time Not until short time before start of war was there permanent attache	Courtesy calls. Good relations in equestrian sports. One officer at the Kriegsakademie at Berlin
Spain	Spain	Ties through Franco's fight against nationalist Spain. Exchange of delegations. Delegations at maneuvers. Visits at German training schools
Co-appointment in Portugal. (Seat Madrid	-	-
Switzerland	Switzerland	Mutual exchange of detachments. Mutual delegations to maneuvers. One Swiss Officer at German Kriegsakadem
Italy	Italy	Strong mutual exchange of detachments. Frequent mutual delegations sent to drills and maneuvers. Exchange of visits by commissions.

		One German officer at Kriegeakademie. Two Italian officers at German War Academy. Close relations in equestrian sports.
Czechoslovakia	Czechoslovakia	Czechoslovakian cavalry officers at Berlin and Aachen. At At the end officer commission at Berlin for possible purchase of arms.
Hungary	Hungary	Strong mutual exchange of detachments. Frequent mutual delegations sent to drills and maneuvers. Mutual visits of commissions, close relations in equestrian sports.
Yugoslavia	Yugoslavia	Yugoslav purchasing commission for motor vehicles at Berlin. On that occasion participation at a practise of the school for mobile troops.
Greece	Greece	Greek delegation under Chief of General Staff at German maneuvers 1938.

Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Mutual exchange of detachments. Mutual dispatch of delegations to drills and maneuvers. One Bulgarian officer at Kriegsakademie.
Romania	Romania	Courtesy calls. Equestrian sport relations.
Turkey	Turkey	Mission of German advisers at Istambul. Turkish officers detached to field forces and schools. One Turkish officer at Kriegsakademie. Turkish maneuver delegations.
Co-appointment in Iran (Seat Ankara	Iran	Iranian officers detached to field forces and schools. Iranian delegation to maneuvers in Germany. One Iranian officer at Kriegsakademie.
Poland	Poland	Mutual courtesy calls. German officers at Polish service schools. Equestrian sports.
Lithuania	Lithuania	Beginning of a mutual exchange of detachments.

Co-appointment in Latvia	Latvia	Participation of Latvian teams in equestrian meets.
Co-appointment in Estonia (seat Helsinki)	Estonia	Mutual exchange of detachments. Estonian delegations to maneuvers. One Estonian officer at Kriegsakademie.
Finland	Finland	Frequent mutual exchange of detachments, especially of Fins to the German Army. Delegations at maneuvers. One Finnish officer at Kriegsakademie.
Sweden	Sweden	Mutual exchange of detachments and visits at maneuvers. Swedish officers often attended equestrian meets. One Swedish officer at Kriegsakademie.
Co-appointment in Norway (seat at Stockholm)	-	Small mutual exchange of detachments.
Co-appointment in Denmark (seat at Stockholm)	-	Small mutual exchange of detachments. Danish officers to German equestrian meets. Danish maneuver delegations.

Russia	Russia	- - -
Japan	Japan	Numerous detachments of Japanese officers to the field forces, schools and maneuvers. One Japanese officer at Kriegsakademie.
Co-appointment China (seat Tokyo)	China	German mission of advisers in China until middle of 1938. Detachments of Chinese officers to field forces and especially to schools and as maneuver delegations. One Chinese officer at Kriegsakademie (gradual elimination).
	Thailand (seat London)	One Thailand maneuver delegation at German Army in 1937
Co-appointment in Mexico	Mexico	Troop visits of Mexican officers. Participation of a Mexican delegation at German maneuvers.
	Brazil	German military attache appointed in August 1939. Did not depart.
	Argentina	German advisory mission. Frequent detachments of Argentinean officers to field forces, schools, maneuvers. One officer at Kriegsakademie.

Chile	Frequent detachments of Chilean officers to field forces, schools. One officer at Kriegsakademie.
Bolivia	A few detachments of officers to field forces and schools.

Twenty German military attaches in twenty-nine countries. Thirty foreign military attaches accredited at Berlin.

APPENDIX C

ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES OF THE ATTACHE BRANCH AFTER MOBILIZATION

Chief of Attache Branch Officer on special assignment

Sub-section Ia.

Mobilization. Information of officers on war situation Telegrams and messages Telegram office. Front visits for military attaches and delegations. Signal communications.

Sub-section I/Personnel

Compiled elaborations and reports. Cooperation with protocol of the foreign office and personnel office. Relations with foreigners. Personal affairs of military attaches and Attache Branch. Foreign leave. Prohibited areas. Billets Attache Branch.

Sub-section II

Spain
Portugal
Switzerland
Italy

Sub-section III

U.S.A. until December 1941
Central and South America
China until September 1940.

Sub-section IV

Hungary
Slovakia
Yugoslavia
(later Croatia)
Romania

Sub-section IV a

Turkey
Iran
Greece
Bulgaria

Sub-section V

Baltic States
Finland
Sweden
Norway
Denmark

Russia until June 1941
Japan

Sub-sections II to V jointly

Distribution of reports, partly in connection with the "national" groups of the Foreign Armies Branch. Working on reports. Affairs of the German and foreign military attaches. Memoranda on reports to the Commander in Chief of the Army, Chief of the General Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff IV, from attache reports and on foreign military attaches. Detachments of German military attaches to Berlin and to the front. Relations with foreign Armies. Detachments of German officers and officials abroad, troop visits, trips to the front by military attaches. Delegations of foreign Armies.

Sub-section Propaganda

Liaison with Army High Command. Information to German and foreign press. General and military propaganda material. Films for foreign and German military attaches. Press and propaganda work of German military attaches.

Liaison officers at Army High Command Headquarters

Liaison with Assistant Chief of Staff IV. Passing on material worked on at headquarters. Obtaining situation reports. Representing interests of foreign officers at headquarters.

Record Office I and II

Distributed and passed on incoming and outgoing matters. Office affairs. Files of soldiers and employees.

Administration

Monetary affairs of German military and naval attaches. Budget with expenses of Army and Wehrmacht High Commands. Invitations of foreigners to the Army. Offices and employees of military attaches.

Courier Office

Assembled mail for foreign countries. Passing it on to courier officers of Foreign Office. Incoming courier mail. Dispatched couriers.

APPENDIX D

ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES OF THE ATTACHE BRANCH

FROM THE MID OF 1941 UNTIL 1945

Section Chief Ia	Allied Sections Chief		
(auxiliary officers)	Sub-section III	Sub-section IV	Sub-section V
War situation.	Italy	Hungary	Finland
Information, telegrams		Romania	Japan
and messages.		Slovakia	
Signal communication.		Croatia	
Front visits of military			
attaches and delegations.			

Sub-sections III to V jointly

Close cooperation with allied military attaches, and German liaison staffs. Handling and representing wishes and demands of allies, arranging conferences at the General Staff, transmitting demands of German High Command through attache channels. Front visits of military attaches. Arranging assistance in training, visits of schools, exchange of information.

	Neutral Sections Chief	
Sub-section II	Sub-section IVa	Sub-section VI
Spain	Bulgaria	Sweden
Portugal	Turkey	Thailand
Switzerland	Iran	Argentina
	Middle East	Brazil
	countries	Chile
		Central and South American countries

/Sub-sections II, IVa, VI jointly

Affairs of neutral military attaches, visits to the field forces. Detachments of foreign officers to Replacement Training Army or field forces. Front visits of foreign officers and delegations.

All sub-sections jointly

Affairs, distribution and handling of reports. Messages of the German military attaches, partly in connection with the "national" sections of the Foreign Armies Branches. Memoranda for reports to Commander in Chief of Army, Chief of the General Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff IV from attache reports concerning foreign military attaches. Escorts of foreign military attaches. Detachments of German military attaches to Berlin or to the front. Relations to foreign Armies. Detachments of German officers and officials to foreign countries.

Chief Section Z

Sub-section Z

Compiled elaboration and reports of a general kind. Co-operation with protocol Foreign Office and Personnel Office. Entertainment questions. Relations with foreigners Prohibited areas.

Personnel Sub-section

Personnel affairs of military attaches and Attache Branch. Decorations. Attache Branch Billets.

Propaganda Sub-section

Liaison with Wehrmacht High Command. Information from foreign press. General and military propaganda material. Films for German and foreign military attaches. Military reports of the foreign press. Press and

Liaison Section at Headquarters

One Chief

One or two auxiliary officers.

Liaison to Assistant Chief of Staff IV, later on Chief of General Staff. Forwarding matters to be handled at headquarters. Working on priority items for Chief of Attache Branch at his presence at headquarters. Obtaining situation reports. Caring for and escorting foreign officers at headquarters.

propaganda activity of the German military attaches.

Chief Administration Section

Monetary affairs of German military and naval attaches. Budget including expenses of Army and Wehrmacht High Commands for invitations of foreigners at the Army. Offices of the military attaches. Employees of military attaches with personnel.

Record Office I and II

Distribution and forwarding incoming and outgoing items. Office affairs. Personnel files of soldiers and employees.

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